

"(5) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 1998, the Secretary shall report to the Congress the Secretary's findings with respect to—

"(A) whether the distribution of post-assistance arrearages to families has been effective in moving people off of welfare and keeping them off of welfare;

"(B) whether early implementation of a pre-assistance arrearage program by some States has been effective in moving people off of welfare and keeping them off of welfare;

"(C) what the overall impact has been of the amendments made by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 with respect to child support enforcement in moving people off of welfare and keeping them off of welfare; and

"(D) based on the information and data the Secretary has obtained, what changes, if any, should be made in the policies related to the distribution of child support arrearages.

"(h) CONTINUATION OF ASSIGNMENTS.—Any rights to support obligations, which were assigned to a State as a condition of receiving assistance from the State under part A and which were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, shall remain assigned after such date.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in subsection (a):

"(1) ASSISTANCE.—The term assistance from the State means—

"(A) assistance under the State program funded under part A or under the State plan approved under part A of this title (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996); and

"(B) foster care maintenance payments under the State plan approved under part F of this title.

"(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The term Federal share means that portion of the amount collected resulting from the application of the Federal medical assistance percentage in effect for the fiscal year in which the amount is collected.

"(3) FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE.—The term

"Federal medical assistance percentage" means—

"(A) the Federal medical assistance percentage (as defined in section 1118), in the case of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa; or

"(B) the Federal medical assistance percentage (as defined in section 1905(h), as in effect on September 30, 1996) in the case of any other State.

"(4) STATE SHARE.—The term "State share" means  $\frac{100}{\text{percent}}$  minus the Federal share.

"(d) HOLD HARMLESS PROVISION.—If the amounts collected which could be retained by the State in the fiscal year (to the extent necessary to reimburse the State for amounts paid to families as assistance by the State) are less than the State share of the amounts collected in fiscal year 1995 (determined in accordance with section 457 as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity